

Work and the Data Economy

**A joint meeting of the Society for Economic Anthropology
and the Society for the Anthropology of Work**

April 18–20, 2024

Tufts University

Meeting organizers: Alex Blanchette (Tufts University), Marcel LaFlamme (PLOS),
Nick Seaver (Tufts University)

With support from the Tufts University School of Arts and Sciences, Center for the Humanities,
Data Intensive Studies Center, and Department of Anthropology

All events will take place in Alumnae Lounge, Aidekman Arts Center, 40 Talbot Avenue,
Medford, MA unless otherwise indicated.

Thursday, April 18

5-6:30pm, Keynote Address

“Data Driven: Truckers, Technology, and the New Workplace Surveillance”

Karen Levy (Cornell University)

6:30-8pm, Opening Reception

Friday, April 19

8-10am, Panel: Skill's Persistence

“The Work of Craft in the Age of Computational Fabrication”

Caitrin Lynch and Deb Chachra (Olin College)

“Datafying Work, Skill and Expertise: A Case of Everyday Enactment of Datafication in India”

Bidisha Chaudhuri (University of Amsterdam)

“Time Discipline as a Condition of Pre-Automation: What the Experiences of Bus Operators Reveal About the Co-Construction of Political, Economic, and Technical Transformations”

Hunter Akridge and Sarah Fox (Carnegie Mellon University)

“Please wait, help is on the way’: How Self-Checkout Offsets Tasks and Reconstructs Roles for Frontline Retail Workers”

Pegah Moradi (Cornell University)

“The Aviator's Ball: Imagination, AI, and Diverging Career Pathways for Airline Pilots”

Fabio Mattioli (University of Melbourne)

Discussant: Gabriella Coleman (Harvard University)

10-10:20am, Break

10:20-11am, Methods Showcase

“Imperial Datafication: Historicizing Work in the Global Data Economy”

Preeti Raghunath (University of Sheffield)

“How Do We Know What We Grow? Unpacking the Datafication of Agricultural Landscapes in the United States”

Andrea Rissing (Arizona State University) and Kaitlin Spangler (Pennsylvania State University)

11am-12:30pm, Roundtable: Platform Politics

Filipe Calvão (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies)

Tarini Bedi (University of Illinois Chicago)

Quinn O'Dowd (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)

Ian Spangler (Leventhal Map & Education Center)

Jaehoon Bae (University of Pittsburgh)

12:30-2pm, Lunch/Joint Business Meeting/Award Presentation

Rebecca Galemba (University of Denver)

Winner: 2023 Kate Browne Creativity in Research Award

2-4pm, Panel: Invisible Labors

“Knowing Their Data Better than the Regulators Do: Compliance Cultures and Data Value Regimes”

Lindsay Poirier (Smith College)

“Making the Eyes of the State: Algorithmic Alienation and Mundane Creativity in Peruvian Street-Level Bureaucrats”

Diego Cerna-Aragon (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and Luis Garcia (Temple University)

“The Ambiguous Labor of Development Research Data Collection in Kenya”

Adrian Wilson (University of California, Berkeley)

“The ‘Up’ in Uptime: Masculinity Maintenance in the Cloud’s Data Centers”

Steven Gonzalez (Goethe University)

“The Datafication of Homework: How Teaching Assistants Attempt to Unveil the Black Box”

Sook-Lin Toh (University of Southern California)

Discussant: Mary Gray (Microsoft Research)

4-5pm, Award Presentations

Myriam Amri (Harvard University)

Winner: 2023 Harold K. Schneider Graduate Student Paper Prize

Amrina Rosyada (Northwestern University)

Winner: 2023 Eric R. Wolf Graduate Student Paper Prize

5-6:30pm, Poster Session/Reception

“Art(ist)work in the Data Economy”

Darren Cole and Yunus Doğan Tellieli (Worcester Polytechnic Institute)

“Reimagining Work in Toxic Air: Data Capitalism, Disability, and Environmental Crisis in Delhi”

Ipshita Ghosh (University of North Carolina at Charlotte)

“‘Pimp your granny’: Indian Households Produce for the Global Creator Economy”

Sucharita Kanjilal (Bard College)

2023 Harold K. Schneider Undergraduate Student Paper Prize

Frederik Aude and Erika Kuever (University of Southern Denmark)

“Datafication of Job Opportunities in Serbia: How to Find a Good Job That Pays Well”

Tamara Pavlovic (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)

“Calculating the Cost of Data Refusal”

Annabel Rothschild (Georgia Institute of Technology)

“Economic Anthropology in the New Era of Generative Artificial Intelligence”

Zachary Sheldon (University of Pittsburgh) and Peeyush Kumar (Microsoft Research)

“Immaterial Data, Material Erasures”

Nikki Wise (University of Maryland)

“Fostering Data Justice: Challenges in Potato Agrobiodiversity Data Infrastructures in the Peruvian Andes”

Sebastian Zarate (North Carolina State University)

Saturday, April 20

9-10:20am, Panel: Care and Value

“Therapist, Platform Worker, Data Manager: Data Economies and Therapeutic Labor”
Livia Garofalo (Data & Society)

“Data Advocacy for Home Care Workers: Data as Power or as a Burden”
Joy Ming (Cornell University)

“Algorithmic Care: Authentic Labor in Re-Commerce Markets”
Brie Berry (Ursinus College)

Discussant: Heather Paxson (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

10:20-10:40am, Break

10:40-11:20am, Methods Showcase

“Data for Labor Rights: Migrant Labor and Wage Fraud in Urban India”
Maansi Parpiani (University of Copenhagen)

“Data Colonialism, Coercive Capitalism, and Networked Knowledge: An Equitable Approach to Participatory Action Research”
Aziz Fatnassi and Kylie King (State University of New York Plattsburgh)

11:20am-1pm, Lunch on your own

1-3pm, Panel: Speculative Futures

“When No Data is Available: How to Value a Nascent Entity”
Jacob Hellman (University of California San Diego)

“Data and Speculation in African Insurance Markets”
Vanessa Watters Opalo (Georgetown University)

“Learning to Sell Smoke: The Currency of Pilot Projects in Northern Chile’s Anticipated Green Hydrogen Boom”

Caroline White-Nockleby (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

“A (De)fortified National Future: Exposing Local Youth to Crypto-Working Opportunities in Rural El Salvador”

Yura Yokoyama (Brandeis University)

“Mapping Profit: The Datafication of Urban Space in Boston”

Mathias Levi Toft Kristiansen (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Discussant: Elizabeth Ferry (Brandeis University)

3-3:15pm, Break

3:15-4:45pm, Roundtable: Data for Good?

Ben Eyre (University of East Anglia)

Montserrat Perez Castro (Dartmouth College)

Mark Bomford (Yale University)

Andrea Steffes-Tuttle (University of Colorado at Boulder)

Erin Victor (University of Maine)

Lauri Goldkind (Fordham University)

Moderator: Crystal Lee (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

4:45-6pm, Closing Discussion

Meeting organizers, in conversation with Sareeta Amrute (New School) and all attendees

6pm, Optional Closing Dinner

RSVP required, additional fee applies